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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.39 and Add.1)*]

69/136. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by the Governments of participant States, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recalling that the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process participant States and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,

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Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds and the significant developmental impact it has had in improving the lives of people dependent on the trade in diamonds, and noting that the plenary meeting of the Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continue to ensure that the Process remains relevant as a credible tool in curbing the illegal flow of rough diamonds,

Acknowledging also that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of the producing, exporting and importing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and helps to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process may be useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006, 62/11 of 26 November 2007, 63/134 of 11 December 2008, 64/109 of 11 December 2009, 65/137 of 16 December 2010, 66/252 of 25 January 2012, 67/135 of 18 December 2012 and 68/128 of 18 December 2013, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

[1] See A/57/489.

Welcoming also the decision of the 54 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 States members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the outcomes of the twelfth plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Guangzhou by China from 11 to 14 November 2014,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by civil society organizations from across participant countries, and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, which represents all aspects of the diamond industry in the Process, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,[1] to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have the requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories and across their borders, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in the institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

Welcoming the efforts to improve the normative framework of the Kimberley Process through the elaboration of new rules and procedural norms to regulate the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers and the streamlining of the procedures for preparation and adoption of the decisions and documents of the Process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme helps to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Also recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

4. *Notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006, the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012, and the decision of the General Council of 11 December 2012 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2018;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/128, [2] and congratulates the participating States and the European Union, the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2014 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by Governments, industry and civil society in the Process, foster a sense of ownership by Participants and observers, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Process to respond to emerging challenges;

7. *Notes* that the annual reporting process on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme implementation is the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Process provided by Participants, and calls upon Participants to submit consistent and substantive annual reports in order to conform to this requirement;

8. *Expresses appreciation* to Australia, China, Guinea and Guyana for receiving review visits in 2014, welcomes the commitment of those countries to continuously open their certification systems to reviews and improvements, and calls upon other Participants to invite and receive review visits in accordance with the peer review system of the Kimberley Process;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation, including the organization of a study tour hosted by Australia for representatives of Participants and observers in order to increase knowledge of best practices relating to the Process and develop a cadre of experts able to participate in review visits;

10. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and enforcement, and in particular to ensure the coordination of its actions in relation to the occurrence of fraudulent certificates, to apply vigilance and ensure the detection and reporting of shipments of suspicious origin and to facilitate the exchange of information in cases of infringement, encourages further collaboration among Participants and with relevant international organizations, including the World Customs Organization, in securing better import and export control and more transparency in the rough diamond supply chain, and welcomes the suggestion made by working bodies of the Process to consider relevant recommendations from the report of the Financial Action Task Force related to risks

[2] A/69/622, annex.

associated with the supply chain of rough diamonds, emphasizing that the Process already provides measures to mitigate against such vulnerabilities and risks;

11. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings, and acknowledges the importance of the increased involvement of civil society organizations in the Process;

12. *Calls upon* the Participants of the Kimberley Process to continue to articulate and improve rules and procedures to further enhance the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Process with respect to developing transparent and uniform rules and procedures and improving the mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of Kimberley Process Participants and observers to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

14. *Recognizes* the impact of the Ebola epidemic on several Kimberley Process Participants, and welcomes the commitment of the Process to provide support and technical assistance to affected countries and diamond mining communities;

15. *Also recognizes* the importance of the Kimberley Process in promoting economic development, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, and encourages an increased focus on issues related to the implementation of the Washington Declaration on Integrating Development of Artisanal and Small Scale Diamond Mining with Kimberley Process Implementation of 2012, including through the work of the Diamond Development Initiative, within the framework of the Process;

16. *Welcomes* Security Council resolution 2153 (2014) of 29 April 2014, in which the Council terminated measures outlined in its resolution 1643 (2005) of 15 December 2005 to prevent the importation by any State of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire and encouraged Côte d'Ivoire to host a Kimberley Process review visit within nine months of the date of the adoption of resolution 2153 (2014), notes that, in its 2014 final communiqué, the plenary meeting of the Process accepted the invitation of Côte d'Ivoire to host a review visit in early 2015, in line with the timing and obligations set out in resolution 2153 (2014), also notes that the review visit is planned for the beginning of March 2015, and encourages Côte d'Ivoire to continue to implement its transition strategy and post-embargo plan of action and to implement the recommendations in the review mission report;

17. *Encourages* the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to continue to provide support to Côte d'Ivoire for the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, as well as for its continued participation in regional cooperation and law enforcement activities, such as the Mano River Basin initiative, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2153 (2014);

18. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to continue active collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1584 (2005) of 1 February 2005, and with Côte d'Ivoire, aiming at the resumption of trade in rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire;

19. *Welcomes* the initiative of Kimberley Process Participants in West Africa to enhance their cooperation in Process implementation and policy harmonization by adopting a regional approach for the Mano River region, and encourages countries in the Mano River region, the technical team, the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development project and other implementing partners to continue this work;

20. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process reaffirmed its administrative decision on ensuring that diamonds from the Central African Republic are not introduced into the legitimate trade, as approved by written procedure on 11 July 2014, acknowledges progress made by the Central African Republic on the implementation of its workplan and road map for addressing issues of non-compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements and strengthening its internal control system, and encourages the Central African Republic to continue working closely with the African Union, relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) of 5 December 2013, the international community and neighbouring countries on Certification Scheme compliance issues;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and technical cooperation, including in the export of a shipment of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic to South Africa to update the Central African Republic footprinting analysis and work on a fingerprinting analysis;

22. *Notes* the decision of the plenary meeting regarding the participation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Kimberley Process, welcomes the special efforts made by China, as Chair of the Kimberley Process, in relation to this matter, and invites the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to continue its efforts towards full reintegration into the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through the steps outlined in the Kimberley Process communiqué of 30 November 2012;[3]

23. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism, with the World Diamond Council acting as host for 2014;

24. *Notes* the commitment of the Kimberley Process to continue dialogue on decision-making and on the definition of "conflict diamonds", in accordance with the final communiqué of the plenary meeting held in Johannesburg in November 2013;[4]

25. *Acknowledges* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process adopted amendments to the administrative decision on the participation of observers in the work of the Process, clarifying the nature of the participation of observers in the Process and the procedure for the participation of their representatives in the events and/or activities of the Process;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the continued support provided by the Antwerp World Diamond Centre for the further development of the Kimberley Process website, which has been enhanced significantly to make it a more efficient and effective tool;

[3] A/67/640, annex, enclosure.

[4] A/68/649, annex, enclosure.

27. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, and welcomes the commitment of the plenary meeting to continue its constructive engagement with civil society in recognition of the important role that civil society plays in the Process;

28. *Encourages* further improvement in enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the new efforts made to increase information-sharing and collaboration in enforcement;

29. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that China, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2014, has made to curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, welcomes the selection of Angola as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2015, and takes note with appreciation of the commitments made by Angola to further consolidate the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

30. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Process;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

70th plenary meeting
12 December 2014